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**THE NEW JERSEY**  
**ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE**  
**COMMISSION**



PILOT CURRICULUM PROGRAM PHASE II: 2005-2006  
*Italian Heritage Curriculum: "The Universality of Italian Heritage"*

## Unit Five: Second & Third Grade

### "The Art of Giotto di Bondone"

#### Grades 2-3

##### Purpose:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the country of Italy on a globe or world map.
2. Identify the artist and architect, Giotto di Bondone.
3. Explain why Giotto is one of the most famous global artists.
4. Follow a given recipe to create homemade paints.
5. Practice creating life-like portraits of each other.
6. Discuss for whom they may be role models and why.

##### Materials Required:

- Access to the internet
- Globe or world map
- Downloaded history of Giotto
- Downloaded pictures of Giotto's works of art or a picture book from a library
- Poster paint recipe
- Flour
- Water
- Powdered tempera paint in various colors
- Liquid starch or liquid detergent
- Glitter or sand (optional)
- White construction paper
- Paint brushes

##### Theme:

One of Italy's most famous pre-Renaissance Italian artists was Giotto di Bondone. He was born 1267 and died in 1337. More than any one artist, he determined the course of painting in Europe. Giotto abandoned the formula of Byzantine or Eastern Roman painting for the study of nature. He painted lifelike works as opposed to the more abstract styles of the earlier periods.

In this lesson plan, students will explore the life of Giotto di Bondone. Giotto sent a simple, perfect, red circle made with a single stroke of his hand to the Pope. He had hoped that this would signify the quality of his work. Students will try to create a single, perfect circle using tempera paint on white construction paper that they make in class.

For further information, see the web sites provided in the lesson plan.

- Biography:
- Works of art:
- Homemade Poster paint recipe:

##### Activities:

- I. Identify on a globe or world map the country of Italy, the city of Florence, and the town of Vespignano, if possible.

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- II. Give the class some basic background on Giotto's childhood and how he became an art student of Cimabue.
- III. Discuss and point out on a map some of the cities throughout Italy where Giotto created his masterworks.
  - a. Show some pictures of his works either on the internet or from a library book.
- IV. Pope Boniface VIII requested to see samples of Giotto's artwork for evaluation.
  - a. Giotto sent a simple, perfect, red circle made with a single stroke of his hand.
  - b. He had hoped that this would signify the quality of his work.
- V. Have the students try to create a single, perfect circle using tempera paint on white construction paper. See how to make the paint at: provided website.
  - a. Discuss their work.
  - b. Did they find it easy to do or more difficult?
- VI. Discuss why Giotto became famous:
  - a. Adding natural features and a third dimension to his paintings
  - b. Transitioning art from the simpler Medieval period to the more naturalistic Renaissance style.
  - c. Designing the Campanile (Bell Tower) of the Cathedral of Florence.
- VII. Discuss his personal life:
  - a. He was a husband and a father, had many influential friends (the Pope and King Robert of Naples), and was considered witty and wealthy.
  - b. He was known as an inspiration to other artists such as Masaccio and Michelangelo.
    - i. Ask the class if they have a talent and can be a role model or inspiration to others, such as a younger sibling or younger family member, maybe even a friend.
- VIII. As a class or in groups, follow the recipe to make homemade poster paint at provided website in lesson plan